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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Cooperation with State, Federal and other Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 22, 1946
(Fourth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1946)

The boll weevil situation continues serious. General rains and mild temperatures over most of the Cotton Belt were favorable for weevil development. Weevils in the first generation have now made their appearance in some areas. Populations are present in sufficient numbers in most all sections to cause serious damage in July and August, unless checked by dry, hot weather and the use of calcium arsenate. The danger of boll weevil damage has been increased because of the high percent of late-planted cotton this season.

Cotton flea hopper damage continued serious in the Gulf Coast areas of Texas. Infestations are increasing in the central part of the State. Some damage has been reported from the Piedmont area of South Carolina and the Mississippi Delta. Flea hoppers are also reported as occurring in northwestern Louisiana and Oklahoma.

The first cotton leafworms were found in Cameron County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas June 7. Additional infestations are now reported from Jim Wells and Willacy Counties.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: Weevil infestation continued to increase in the Gulf Coastal Bend and central Texas areas. Much dusting now being done for their control was interfered with by rains the past week.

Square examinations made in 51 fields in 3 Coastal Bend Counties averaged 9% weevil infested. From 11 fields in 3 south central counties the infestation averaged 31%. From 17 fields in McLennan and adjoining counties the infestation averaged 75%. All fields examined in this area had infestations above 50%. The average square infestation in the Blackland area was 55%. Plant examinations in this area made in 22 fields, where the cotton was not large enough for squares, averaged 755 weevils per acre.

Weevil infestation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley made little change during the week. From 357 fields in 3 counties the infestation averaged 6.7% as compared to 74% at this date in 1945.

OKLAHOMA: Cotton was too small for square inspection in Oklahoma. In examinations made in 39 fields in 10 counties, weevil populations averaged 407 per acre as compared to 150 this date in 1945. The weevils per acre ranged from 44 to 1016.

LOUISIANA: In Madison Parish most of the cotton was too large for plant examinations and too small for square examinations.

Square examinations made in 59 fields of 9 parishes in Louisiana showed an average infestation of 17%. In 7% of the fields no punctured squares were found; in 25% the infestation ranged from 1% to 10%, in 49% the infestations were from 11% to 25%; in 17% infestations were from 26% to 50%; and in 2% infestations were over 50%.

Weevil emergence from hibernation cages appears to have now passed the peak. The total emergence as of June 21 was 6.82% as compared to 6.24% the previous week.

ARKANSAS: Cotton is too small in southeastern Arkansas for square examination. Plant examinations were made in 22 fields in 3 counties, and weevils were found at an average of 475 per acre. The weevils per acre ranged from 0 to 1,296.

MISSISSIPPI: Boll weevil infestation in Mississippi decreased slightly during the week. From examinations made on 247 farms in 46 counties by State Plant Board and Bureau inspectors 129 farms were found infested. Weevils were found at the rate of 159 per acre as compared to 185 the previous week, and 182 on this date in 1945. Square infestation on the infested farms averaged 15%.

Cotton in general is still small and just beginning to square. The highest infestations reported this week were from Warren, Holmes, Leake and Kemper Counties. The average square infestation was 58%, 56%, 51% and 41%, respectively.

Dr. Clay Lyle, entomologist of the Board, stated that "weevils are still present generally throughout the state except in those parts of the Delta which were flooded last winter and in the extreme northeastern counties where very few weevils were reported. A week of dry, warm weather in the Delta and other portions of the state has improved the situation some but if showers should start again, the weevil situation would quickly become very serious."

ALABAMA: Mr. W. A. Ruffin, Extension Entomologist, wires: "Weevil infestation highest for this time of year since 1939. Cotton planted early fruiting freely. Infestation in these fields runs from 25 to 75 per cent."

GEORGIA: Hibernating weevils in the southern part of the State are now dying out and infestations of these weevils are not high, but weevil populations continue to be heavy in the northern part of the State.

Square examinations made in 46 fields in 21 counties averaged 25% weevil punctured.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The boll weevil survey in South Carolina covered 127 farms in 16 counties. Most of these farms were located in the Piedmont area where cotton is still too small for square examinations. Weevils were found in 109 of the 127 farms examined, at an average rate of 80 weevils per acre. Cotton in general is too large for plant examinations and too small for square examinations.

Square infestation counts made in early cotton in 7 counties averaged 14.4%.

NORTH CAROLINA: Examinations were made in 105 fields in 17 counties and only 22 were infested with weevils, at an average rate of 70 per acre.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER

Cotton flea hoppers continued serious in the Gulf Coast areas of Texas and infestations are increasing in other areas.

In 130 fields examined in 16 counties, the average population was 17 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds. The highest average infestation of 60 was found in Willacy County; in San Patricio, 34; Kleberg, 27; Caldwell, 25; Jim Wells, 20; Nueces, 19; Limestone, 16. Dusting was general but interfered with by rains in the Coastal areas. Hoppers are beginning to appear in the south central Blackland area.

Some damage has been reported from the Piedmont area of South Carolina and one area in the Mississippi Delta. Flea hoppers are reported as occurring in northwestern Louisiana and Oklahoma.

COTTON LEAFWORM

The first cotton leafworms were found in Cameron County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas on June 7. Two full-grown leafworms were collected in Jim Wells County near Alice June 18, and one large specimen was collected in Willacy County June 21 on the farm of Mr. R. D. Smith, located about 10 miles east of Lyford.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

BEET ARMYWORM: The second generation of beet armyworms has appeared in Arizona and is causing serious damage to cotton in the Casa Grande-Coolidge area and Santa Cruz Valley south of Tucson. Approximately 1,500 acres was dusted near Casa Grande with 5% DDT in 85% sulfur and 10% inert for their control, with excellent results. Arrangements have been made to dust the infested areas south of Tucson with a 5% DDT-sulfur mixture.

APHIDS: Light, spotted infestations of aphids have been reported on cotton in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

GRASSHOPPERS: The grasshopper situation in central Texas continues to be serious. Cotton fields are being defoliated in Matagorda County.

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June 27, 1946

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